

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A method for efficiently merging subnets comprising the steps of:
linking a first subnet, having a first subnet manager and a first database utilized to control the entire first subnet, with a second subnet, having a second subnet manager and a second database utilized to control the entire second subnet, to create a merged subnet; and
dynamically selecting and configuring one of said first subnet manager and said second subnet manager as a master subnet manager, which controls the entire merged subnet, wherein control of the entire merged subnet includes control of both said first subnet and said second subnet.
2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first and second database comprise configuration entries, each including time-stamped a partition key (P_Key) and [[a]] global unique identifier (GUID), which ~~are time-stamped with~~ indicates a time that said configuration entries are created and modified by respective ones of said first and second subnet managers.
3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein said first subnet manager is selected as said master subnet manager, said method further comprising the step of:
absorbing said subnet configuration entries from said database of the ~~other~~ second subnet manager to said database of said master subnet manager to create a merged database of subnet configuration entries.
4. (currently amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein said absorbing step further comprises the steps of:
^adetermining that a first GUID entry of said second database is the same as a second GUID entry of said first database; and
in response to said determining step, selecting a latest most recent time-stamped GUID entry from among said first GUID entry and said second GUID entry as a representative GUID entry for said merged database.

5. (original) The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of discarding a GUID entry not selected as said representative GUID entry.

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein said absorbing step further comprises the steps of:

determining that a first P_Key entry of a GUID of said second database of said other subnet manager is the same as a second P_key entry of a different GUID of said first database;

in response to said determining step, changing all occurrences of said P_Key in said second database to a new P_Key value that is not one of said P_Key values within said first database and said second database.

7. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 ~~6~~, wherein said ~~changing step further comprises the step of selecting only a P_Key value that is not one of said P_Key values within said first database and said second database~~ first and second subnets each comprises multiple nodes wired together to create a wired subnet that is controlled by a single subnet manager, and said selecting step provides a single master subnet manager, and further comprises de-activating the management function of the subnet manager not selected as the single master subnet manager.

8. (original) The method of Claim 3, further comprising the step of configuring said merged subnet utilizing said master subnet manager.

9. (currently amended) A computer program product ~~comprising~~ comprising:

a computer readable medium; and

program instructions on said computer readable medium for:

linking a first subnet, having a first subnet manager and a first database utilized to control the entire first subnet, with a second subnet, having a second subnet manager and a second database utilized to control the entire second subnet, to create a merged subnet; and

dynamically selecting and configuring one of said first subnet manager and said second subnet manger as a master subnet manager, which controls the entire merged subnet, wherein

control of the entire merged subnet includes control of both said first subnet and said second subnet.

10. (currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 9, wherein said first and second database comprise configuration entries each including a time stamped partition key (P_Key) and [[a]] global unique identifier (GUID), which are time-stamped with a time said configuration entries are crated and modified by respective ones of said first and second subnet managers.

11. (currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 10, wherein said first subnet manager is selected as said master subnet manager, said program product further comprising program instructions for:

absorbing said subnet configuration entries from said database of the ~~other~~ second subnet manager to said database of said master subnet manager to create a merged database of subnet configuration entries.

12. (currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 11, wherein said absorbing instructions further comprises program instructions for:

determining that a first GUID entry of said second database is the same as a second GUID entry of said first database; and

in response to said determining step, selecting a ~~latest~~ most recent time-stamped GUID entry from among said first GUID entry and said second GUID entry as a representative GUID entry for said merged database and discarding an older time-stamped entry.

13. (original) The computer program product of Claim 12, further comprising program instructions for discarding a GUID entry not selected as said representative GUID entry.

14. (currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 12, wherein said absorbing instructions further comprises program instructions for:

determining that a first P_Key entry of a GUID of said second database of said other subnet manager is the same as a second P_key entry of a different GUID of said first database;

in response to said determining step, changing all occurrences of said P_Key in said second database to a new P_Key value that is not one of said P_Key values within said first database and said second database.

15. (currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 14 9, wherein said ~~changing instructions further comprises program instructions for selecting only a P_Key value that is not one of said P_Key values within said first database and said second database~~ first and second subnets each comprises multiple nodes wired together to create a wired subnet that is controlled by a single subnet manager, and said program instructions for selecting provides a single master subnet manager, and further comprises program instructions for de-activating the management function of the subnet manager not selected as the single master subnet manager.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A system area network comprising:

a first subnet with a first subnet manager and a first database of subnet entries;

a second subnet with a second subnet manager and a second database of subnet entries, wherein said second subnet is communicatively coupled to said first subnet to form a merged subnet;

logic components for selecting and configuring a master subnet manager from among said first subnet manager and said second subnet manager, wherein the master subnet manager controls the entire merged subnet, and wherein control of the entire merged subnet includes control of both said first subnet and said second subnet; and

software logic associated with said master subnet manager for merging said first database and said second database.

18. (currently amended) The system of Claim 17, wherein:

said first subnet manager is said master subnet manager; and

said first subnet manager absorbs configuration entries from said second database into said first database to create a merged database, and control/management functions of said second subnet manager not selected as the master subnet manager are deactivated.

19. (currently amended) The system of claim 18, wherein said first subnet manager controls and manages ~~managers~~ said system utilizing said merged database.

A 20. (currently amended) The system of Claim 17, wherein said first subnet manager determines when a first GUID entry in said first database is the same as a second GUID entry in said second database and dynamically selects a ~~latest~~ most recent time-stamped entry from among both of said first and second GUID entries for inclusion in said merged database and discarding an older time-stamped entry.
